

OKANOGAN-WENATCHEE NATIONAL FOREST



Motorized Travel Management UPDATE

MAY 2011

We appreciate your continued interest and involvement in the Travel Management Planning process for the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The planning team is analyzing the effects of several alternatives that will be displayed in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for your review. The Forest expects to release the Travel Management DEIS in the fall of 2011, and then gather additional input based on review of the analysis.

Since the last summer's newsletter, the planning team members have been working with the Geographic Information System (GIS) specialist to design and run analysis models for various resources. Creating and running these models is challenging and time-consuming, but we are making headway in producing the outputs needed to complete the analysis.

Beginning in 2006, the Forest Service received many suggestions regarding routes proposed for inclusion or removal from the transportation system. Originally, the Forest planned to make decisions on those proposals through our environmental analysis process. As the analysis progressed, we realized that many of these proposals require more site-specific

information than we currently have, in order to adequately determine potential effects of implementing these actions.

Therefore, the Travel Management DEIS will describe the Forest Service's intent for the overall motorized system, and will inform an initial decision whether to designate those proposals for which we have enough site-specific information to implement immediately. This initial decision will not implement all of the routes intended for the overall motorized system. Given the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), some of the routes will need additional site-specific analysis to inform subsequent decisions.

The Travel Management team is coordinating with other Forest planning efforts, including those for Grizzly Bear Recovery, Forest Restoration, and Forest Plan Revision.

Once the DEIS is released and reviewed, the planning team will produce a Final EIS. The Final EIS will inform Forest Supervisor, Becki Heath, as she decides on an alternative to implement for Travel Management on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest.



Other Plans

The Travel Management plan will tier to the current Forest Plan. The Forest is currently working on revising the Forest plan and the two teams are working closely to ensure that the Forest and Travel Management Plans complement each other. As always in our adaptive management approach, either plan can be altered or a subsequent decision can resolve any contradictions or changes in direction.

The Forest is also engaged in a Minimum Roads Analysis and expects to have that process complete in 2015. The Minimum Roads Analysis process is a separate process from the current travel management planning project, which is intended to close the Forest to cross-country motorized travel after designating a system of roads, trails and areas where motorized use can be accommodated without unacceptable impacts. Simply put:

Travel Management, will designate (on a map) a system of roads, trails and areas where motorized use is allowed.

The **Minimum Roads Analysis** considers the forest road system needed to provide for access and manage National Forest lands. It is not a decision process.

Contacts for additional information about Travel Management

Aaron Pratt
Team Leader
509-664-9321

Mary Bean
Okanogan-Wenatchee NF
Recreation Program Manager
509-664-9319

Tonasket Ranger District
Dale Olson, District Ranger
Betsy Peterson, Recreation Staff
509-486-2186

Methow Valley Ranger District
Michael Liu, District Ranger
Jennifer Zbyszewski, Recreation Staff
509-996-4003

Chelan Ranger District
Bob Sheehan, District Ranger
Paul Willard, Recreation Staff
509-682-4900

Entiat Ranger District
Janet Flanagan, District Ranger
Randy McLandress, Recreation Staff
509-784-1511

Wenatchee River Ranger District
Jeff Rivera, District Ranger
Bob Stoehr, Recreation Staff
509-548-2550

Cle Elum Ranger District
Judy Hallisey, District Ranger
Tim Foss, Recreation Staff
509-852-1100

Naches Ranger District
Irene Davidson, District Ranger
Jacquie Beidl, Recreation Staff
509-653-1401

Website: www.fs.fed.us/r6/okawen/travel-management

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

USDA Forest Service
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
215 Melody Lane
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Travel Management

